

# HOTLINE FROM HOLLYWOOD...



**I** PICKED up my 'phone and, after a few moments' silence, heard the operator's voice checking out my number. I confirmed it and then:

**OPERATOR:** Is Miss Wallace there?

**ME:** Yes . . . speaking.

**OPERATOR:** I have a call for you. Hold the line please.

This made quite a change for me, because I very rarely get phone calls through the operator. Most of my friends dial straight through, even if they're abroad, so I wondered who it could be.

**ME:** Hello?

**SUSAN:** Hi, Pat! It's me – Susan – here. Boy, have I had trouble getting through to you! Do you know, I've been dialling your number time after time for nearly an hour now! I guess all lines to London were engaged.

**ME:** Well, it's great to talk to you again, Susan – it's such a surprise, too . . . I wasn't expecting you to ring at all. . . . Anything exciting been happening lately?

**SUSAN:** Well, everything's gone crazy since we started shooting again. I woke up a bit earlier than usual this morning, feeling really bright and ready to go, and I thought I'd like to share it with someone. It must be the sunshine that did it!

**ME:** Or maybe you're in love. . . .

**SUSAN:** No, I wouldn't quite say that, Pat, but you're not so very far out!

**ME:** Really! That's wonderful – I was only joking when I said that actually. Who is he? What's he like?

**SUSAN:** Well, he's very, very, very nice and I love to be with him, and his name is Dale McRaven. But really, Pat, there isn't anything serious at all.

**ME:** How long have you known him then?

**SUSAN:** Oh, I've known Dale for quite a while. You see, I first met him when he was working on *The Partridge Family* last year, but we didn't date at all then. He produced some of the episodes and I found him super to work with right from the start.

**ME:** Are you still working together?

**SUSAN:** No, Dale isn't doing anything with us this season, and I'm glad of that. I reckon it puts a whole lot of extra strain into your life if you're dating somebody you've got to have a close working relationship with as well.

That's why – no matter what rumours you might come across in magazines and gossip columns – you can always be sure, Pat, there will never be any truth behind talk of romance between David and me. We've always got on well together, right from the start, which is nice. I'll always remember the first time I met him . . . I was so afraid he wouldn't have any time for me at all, because of my never having done any acting before and feeling such a greenhorn. I also had a secret fear that he might turn out to be a bit stuck up, with both his parents and his step-mother being stars and all!

**ME:** How long did it take you to change your mind?

**SUSAN:** Just no time at all! I shook hands with him and he smiled at me and I thought, 'Thank God, it's all going to be okay'. In fact, David was much

## SUSAN CALLING . . .

more than okay! He helped Jane and me to feel really at home in Hollywood.

**ME:** Have you been seeing much of him recently?

**SUSAN:** Not all that much off the set, no. You see, since David's moved house again, we're living out in opposite directions from town.

**ME:** Are you still living in the Canyon then?

**SUSAN:** Yes, still in the same house.

**ME:** But I thought you were looking for an apartment closer in to the Ranch a short while ago.

**SUSAN:** That's right, Pat, I was. That was when Jane first left to go back East. I felt terribly lonesome in those first few weeks . . . I guess it was after being used to always having someone else around, because Jane and I got on fantastically well. The house seemed horribly big and empty, specially when I let myself into it at night.

**ME:** Still, you must have managed all right, Susan, to have changed your mind about moving.

**SUSAN:** Mmmm. I actually hear my alarm these days – which is quite something for me!

**ME:** So have you given up the idea of moving into a smaller place, or are you still looking?

**SUSAN:** No, I've decided to stay put after all. In fact, I've really gotten to like living on my own. I'm sure I'd hate it if I led a lonely kind of life. But, you see, I'm working with a crowd of nice people all day and I feel that every single one of them is a friend of mine. And then, if I want, I can always have other friends round in the evenings and at weekends. So I never have to be alone if I don't want to be.

Still, Jane she always knows she's got a second home right here where she can come any time she wants a vacation and feels like meeting up with all her friends.

Which reminds me, Pat . . . it's about time you had a trip over to see us too. We were only saying the other day how much we'd love to have you here for a vacation. So how about it?

**ME:** Oh, Susan, I'd love it! In fact, I'm saving up for my fare to the States already. The trouble is that my money just seems to melt into thin air these days. Still, I really do hope to make it before too long. The funny part about it, though, is that I feel I know you all really well already.

**SUSAN:** That's real nice and I know what you mean – but it's no excuse for not coming!

Hey! Just look at the time! I've gotta go! They'll never believe I didn't oversleep!

**ME:** Tell them to check with me – I'll back you up.

**SUSAN:** I might just do that . . . and don't forget we want to see you SOON.

Bye for now. Give my love to everyone in Britain. Bye.